

# Kent Power Inc.

90 Spring St.  
Kent City, MI 49330  
616-678-5775P, 616-678-4100F

Dear Rep. Jeff Mayes,

As a representative of Kent Power Inc., I am concerned about Michigan's Frost Law and its negative impact on utility subcontractors. Michigan's Frost Law takes effect during the months of March, April and May each year. During these months, weight limits on certain county roads are generally reduced by 35%. This weight limit reduction presents special problems for my company. Many of our utility repair and maintenance vehicles are not able to meet this reduced weight limit; however, the need for reliable and efficient utility service does not end during those months.

Michigan's Frost Law only partially accommodates itself to the important needs of its citizens and businesses for reliable and efficient utility service. Michigan's utilities and their subcontractors may use county roads under Michigan's unreduced weight limits to respond to emergencies. However during these three months, utilities, **but not their subcontractors**, may obtain permits for their vehicles to use county roads under unreduced weight limits for non-emergency utility work such as trenching for underground electric and gas service and tree trimming in preparation for spring storms. Subcontractors do much of this work. Denying utility subcontractors the same ability to obtain permits to use county roads degrades utility industry efforts to operate reliably and efficiently.

We are a company that provides electric and natural gas services to the utility industry. We perform these services for Consumers Energy, DTE Energy, Michigan Gas Utilities, Wolverine Power, and various Cooperatives and Municipals throughout Michigan. Additionally we have performed subcontract services for utilities throughout all of Michigan, and all of the Great Lakes states. We are headquartered in Kent City, Michigan, and provide employment to an average of 225 residents of Michigan.

We have been in this business for 31 years. We carry substantial commercial general liability insurance to ensure we are well prepared for the many risks of our business. Additionally the following unions generally represent our employees; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, often known as the IBEW, International Union of Operating Engineers, International Laborers Union, and the International Pipefitters Union.

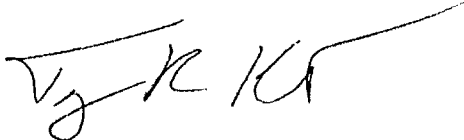
We believe Michigan's current law, which allows utilities permitted use of county roads during March, April and May, is a fair compromise between the interests of maintaining roads and providing reliable and efficient utility service. We are doing

the same work as utilities, and that work should be accorded the same privileges and responsibilities whether performed by a utility or its subcontractor.

I ask for your support of HB 4999 to address this issue. HB 4999 would simply allow utility subcontractors to use county roads during the months of March, April and May under the same rules that apply to the utilities that employ them.

I sincerely appreciate your time, consideration, and effort in helping us with this matter.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TJ K' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Troy Kent  
President  
Kent Power Inc.